



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/446,583	12/22/1999	PHILIP C. LEVERIDGE	36-1302	2585

7590 08/13/2002

NIXON & VANDERHYE
1100 NORTH GLEBE ROAD
8TH FLOOR
ARLINGTON, VA 22201

EXAMINER

BAUGH, APRIL L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2158

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/446,583

Applicant(s)

LEVERIDGE ET AL.

Examiner

April L Baugh

Art Unit

2158

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 December 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: pg. 17, line 31 “initialisation” should be “initialization”.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

2. Claim1 is objected to because of the following informalities: pg. 17, line 31 “authorised” should be “authorized”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Art Unit: 2158

4. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable by US Patent No. 5,708,780 to Levergood et al.

Regarding claim 1, Levergood et al. teaches a method of operating an authenticating server system for authenticating users at client terminals connected via a data communications network (column 3, lines 8-9), to control access to a document stored on a resource server, said method comprising performing the following steps in said server system: storing authentication details of authorized users (column 6, lines 61-63); receiving authentication data for a user from a client terminal of the user, and validating said authentication data by reference to said stored authentication details (column 3, lines 25-26 and column 6, lines 58-60); issuing an identifier for the user's terminal to said terminal for storage thereon (column 3, lines 17-20), the identifier being transmitted in such a manner that the identifier is retransmitted by said user terminal with document requests directed at said resource server (column 3, lines 12-17); storing status data indicating said identifier to be a validated identifier of a terminal of a currently authenticated user (column 3, lines 39-40), in response to said authentication step; and enabling said resource server to validate a request for said document from the user's terminal, which request includes said identifier, by checking said status data on receipt of said document request (column 3, lines 44-47).

Referring to claim 3, Levergood et al. teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said authentication step comprises receiving said identifier from said user terminal with said authentication data (column 3, lines 44-47).

Art Unit: 2158

Regarding claim 4, Levergood et al teaches a method according to claim 3, wherein said authentication step comprises issuing a new identifier to said user terminal if said authentication data is invalid (column 5, lines 46-49).

Referring to claim 8, Levergood et al. teaches a method according to claim 1, comprising authenticating said user for access to a plurality of Web servers located in the same Internet domain (column 3, lines 66-67); and enabling each of said Web servers to validate document requests from the user's terminal, which requests include said identifier (column 3, lines 44-45), by checking said status data on receipt of a document request (column 6, lines 58-60).

Regarding claim 9, Levergood et al. teaches a method of operating an authenticating server system for authenticating users at client terminals connected via a data communications network (column 3, lines 8-9), to control access to a document stored on a resource server, said method comprising performing the following steps in said server system: storing authentication details of authorized users (column 6, lines 61-63); performing remote authentication of a user by reference to said stored authentication details (column 3, lines 25-26 and column 6, lines 58-60) and during said remote authentication step generating status data, distinguishing said user from other users which are not currently authenticated (column 6, lines 61-63), and a secret encryption key shared with said user (column 5, lines 61-65); storing said status data in storage means accessible to said plurality of resource servers to check an authentication status of said user by using an identifier for the user's terminal received in a service request (column 3, lines 13-16); and storing said shared secret key in a data store accessible by at least one of said resource servers for use during communications with said user (column 5, lines 61-65).

Art Unit: 2158

Referring to claim 10, Levergood et al. teaches a method according to claim 9, wherein said authenticating step comprises issuing a challenge to the user's terminal, receiving a response to said challenge, and verifying said response (column 6, lines 45-49 and 58-60).

Referring to claim 11, Levergood et al. teaches a method according to claim 9, further comprising updating said status data for an authenticated user following said storing step (column 7, lines 31-34 and 63-64).

Regarding claim 13, Levergood et al. teaches a method according to claim 11, wherein said updating step is performed in response to access by one of said resource servers to said status data (column 8, lines 52-55).

Regarding claim 15, Levergood et al. teaches a method according to claim 9, wherein said identifier is an IP address of the user's terminal (column 1, lines 39-41).

Referring to claim 16, Levergood et al. teaches a method according to claim 9, wherein said authentication step comprises issuing said identifier to the user's terminal (column 3, lines 30-32).

Regarding claim 17, Levergood et al. teaches a method according to claim 9, wherein said status data is stored in a data store which said resource servers are each able to access (column 6, lines 61-63 and column 7, lines 31-34).

Referring to claim 18, Levergood et al. teaches a method according to claim 9, wherein said authentication details include data identifying the rights of access of individual users to one or more of said application servers (column 3, lines 50-52).

Regarding claim 19, Levergood et al. teaches an authenticating server system adapted to perform the method of claim 1 (column 5, lines 48-49 and column 6, lines 58-60).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US. Patent No. 5,708,780 to Levergood et al. in view of Kirsch.

Regarding claim 2, Levergood et al. teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said identifier is transmitted to said user terminal (column 3, lines 30-32).

Levergood et al. does not teach the transmission of the identifier in a cookie. Kirsch teaches that said identifier is transmitted in a cookie to said user terminal (column 3, lines 14-16 and column 13, lines 11-13). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the internet server access control and monitoring system of Levergood et al. by transmitting the identifier in a cookie because it is a more secure manner of storage and transport of identification data.

7. Claims 5, 6, 7, 12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,708,780 to Levergood et al. in view of See et al.

Regarding claim 5, Levergood et al. teaches of an identifier (column 1, lines 39-41), and the reception of an invalid authenticator from said user terminal (column 7, lines 13-14).

Levergood et al. does not teach that the identifier contains the number of times an invalid authenticator was received. See et al. teaches said identifier comprises data indicating the number of times an invalid authenticator has been received from said user terminal (column 3,

lines 23-25). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the internet server access control and monitoring system of Levergood et al. by having the identifier contain the number of times an invalid authenticator was received because a user can be denied access if they submit multiple invalid authenticators thus providing the system with added security and access control.

Referring to claim 6, Levergood et al. teaches of an identifier (column 1, lines 39-41), and the reception of an invalid authenticator from said user terminal (column 7, lines 13-14).

Levergood et al. does not teach that the system will not issue identifiers to the user if an identifier received from that user shows that a predetermined number of invalid authenticators have been received from the user. See et al. teaches said method comprising issuing no further identifier to said user terminal if an identifier received from said user terminal indicates that a predetermined number of invalid authenticators have been received from said user terminal (column 6, lines 23-26). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the internet server access control and monitoring system of Levergood et al. by not issuing identifiers to the user if an identifier received from that user shows that a predetermined number of invalid authenticators have been received from the user because this provides the system with added security and access control by not allowing unauthorized users access to server information.

Regarding claim 7, Levergood et al. teaches of an identifier (column 1, lines 39-41).

Levergood et al. does not teach of timing out of an identifier. See et al. teaches of timing out of said identifier of a terminal of a currently authenticated user if no document request is received from said user terminal for a predetermined period (column 7, lines 32-36). Therefore,

Art Unit: 2158

it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the internet server access control and monitoring system of Levergood et al. by timing out an identifier because if a user were to forget to logout of a session another could use that workstation to access information that they are not authorized to view and the timing out of the identifier lessens the chance of this happening therefore increasing the security of the system.

Referring to claim 12, Levergood et al. teaches of an updating step (column 7, lines 31-34 and 63-64).

Levergood et al. does not teach of the updating step being performed because of a time-out. See et al. teaches said updating step is performed in response to a time-out associated with said status data (column 7, lines 32-36 and lines 37-39). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the internet server access control and monitoring system of Levergood et al. by performing the updating step because of a time-out because this will give the system up-to-date information on the state of the workstation.

Referring to claim 14, Levergood et al. teaches a method according to claim 12, wherein said updating step is performed in response to a request by the user's terminal (column 4, lines 1-4).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 2158

The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to server access control in general:

US Pat No 5,506,961 to Carlson et al.

US Pat No 6,377,994 to Ault et al.


US Pat No 5,812,776 to Gifford.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to April L Baugh whose telephone number is 703-305-5317. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R Sheikh can be reached on 703-305-9648. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3719 for regular communications and 703-305-3719 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

ALB
August 8, 2002


DAVID WILEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER